

Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

The specification has been amended to correct minor typographical errors and to remove duplicated material. The content of the deleted paragraphs beginning on page 7 line 1 can be found beginning on page 8 line 12.

Claims 48-64 and 67 were previously pending in this application. Claims 48-64 have been cancelled. Claims 68-86 have been added. Support for new claims 68-86 can be found in the claims as originally filed, and in the specification on page 2 lines 16-18, page 3 lines 8-12 and 30, page 4 lines 19-20, page 5 lines 20-22 and 24-31, page 6 lines 1-6 and 13-29, page 12 line 17 to page 13 line 3, page 15 line 3, page 40 line 2, and page 43 line 15 to page 44 line 30. As a result, claims 67-86 are pending for examination with claim 67 being an independent claim.

No new matter has been added.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the return of the Information Disclosure Statement having a mail date of June 24, 2003. However, Applicant points out that the reference WO 99/10494 was not initialed by the Examiner and Applicant requests evidence that this reference has been considered.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 67 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,743,445 to Delwiche et al. (hereinafter “Delwiche”) as evidenced by Wang et al. (Blood, 2000, 96(6):2093-2099).

Without conceding the Examiner’s position, Applicant has amended claim 67 to recite a reduction in platelet count to at least a low normal level. Newly added claim 68 recites a reduction in platelet count to a below normal level. The instant specification defines low normal platelet level as 10% less than the mean normal platelet count. (See page 12, lines 17-22.) If the mean normal platelet count for healthy human subjects is $300 \times 10^3/\mu\text{l}$, then the low normal level

is $270 \times 10^3/\mu\text{l}$. The instant specification further defines a below normal level of platelets as typically less than $150 \times 10^3/\mu\text{l}$.

Delwiche does not teach reducing platelet count to either of these levels. Rather, Delwiche teaches a method for reducing platelet count to a range of $300-600 \times 10^3$ per μl of blood. (See column 3.) Example 1 of Delwiche indicates that thrombocyte numbers return to normal in treated patients. (See columns 5 and 6.)

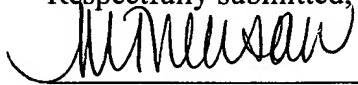
Accordingly, Delwiche does not teach each and every limitation of the pending claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,



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